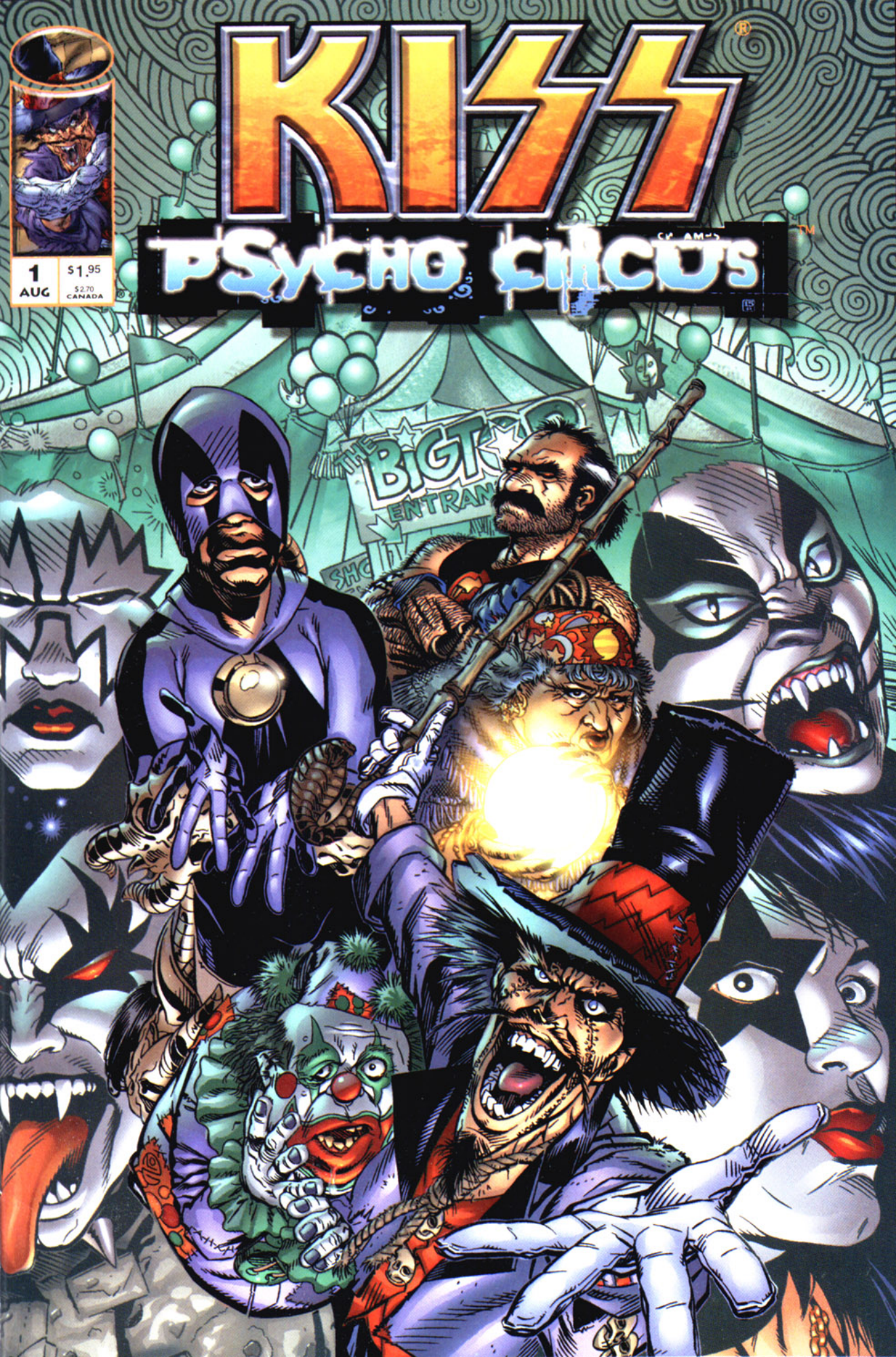
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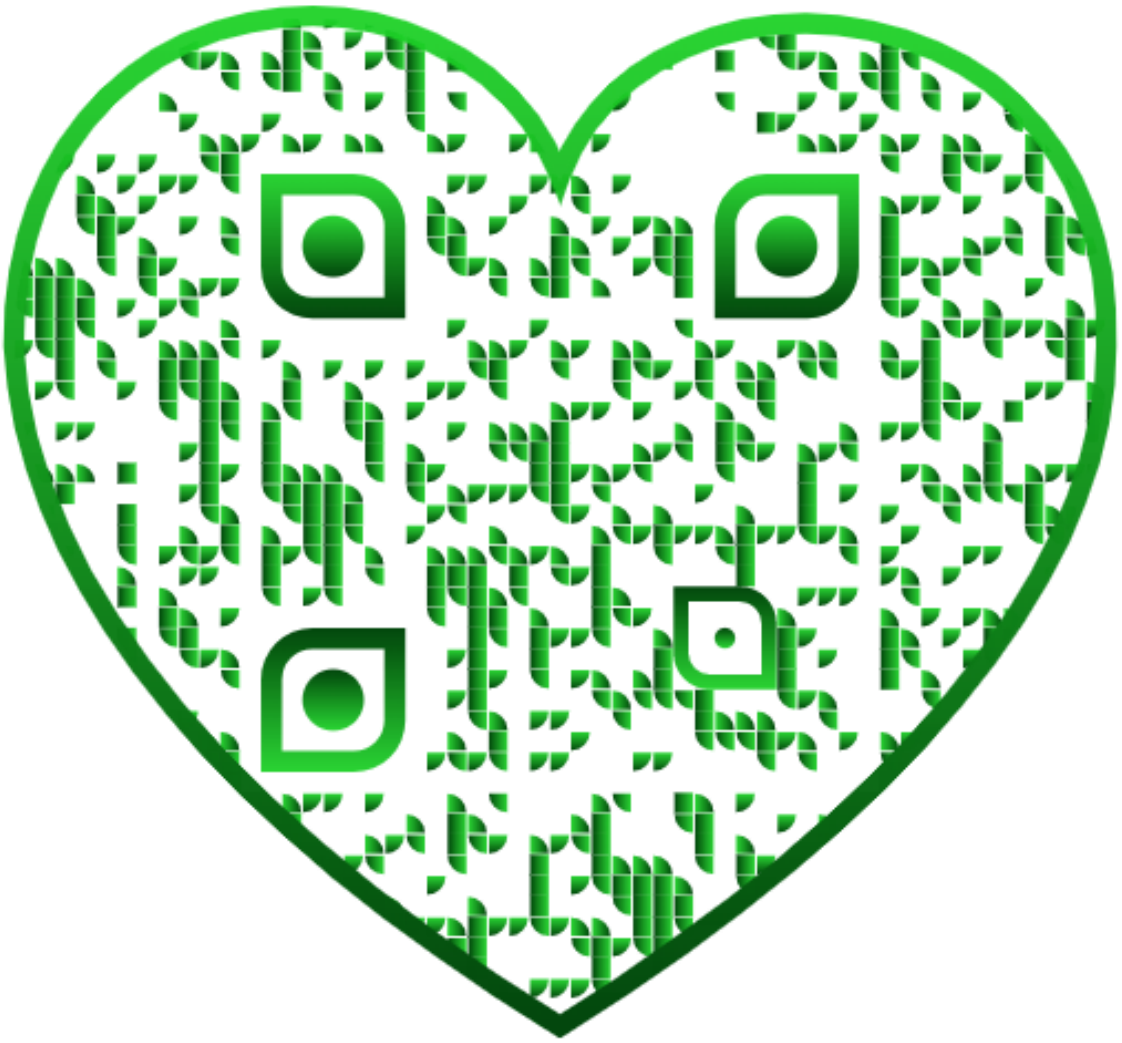

Todd McFarlane Productions
KISS & Image Comics Presents

KISS PSYCHO CIRCUS

the Witchings of Adam Moon [part I]

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dedicated to:
The KISS Army
without whom none of this would be possible.

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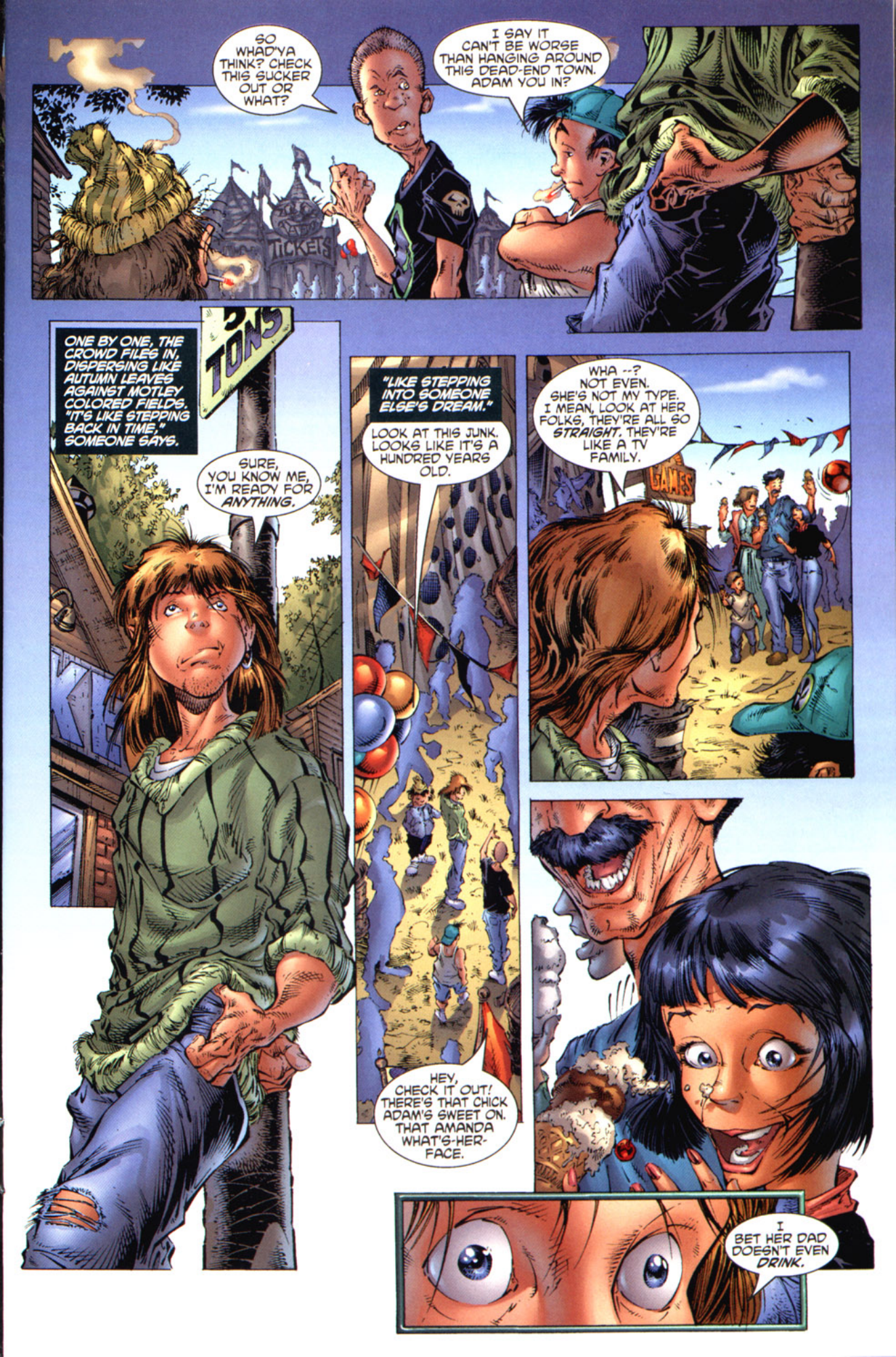
IF YOU LISTEN VERY CLOSELY, YOU CAN HEAR IT. THE MUSIC OF THE NIGHT.
SOMETIMES IT ROARS LIKE THUNDER, RUMBLING LIKE A THOUSAND DRUMS.
SOMETIMES IT COMES ON THE SOFT GLISSANDO WINGS OF MOONLIGHT.
AND SOMETIMES IT CALLS OUT A NAME.
THEY SAY IF YOU GAZE IN TO THE ABYSS LONG ENOUGH, THE ABYSS GAZES BACK INTO YOU.
THERE, TUMBLING IN THE INKY VOID OF CHAOS, FACT AND FICTION MELT AWAY...
...AND ONLY ONE TRUTH REMAINS...
...EVERYTHING CHANGES.

SOMEWHERE IN THE NIGHT...
A TINY CITY IS FOLDING UP ITS TENTS AND MOVING ON.
GREASE PAINT IS WIPED OFF AND COSTUMES ARE PUT AWAY.
CAGES ARE SECURED AND PROPS ARE BOXED UP.
TAROT
THE ROAR OF THE CROWD AND THE EVENING'S FINAL BOW ARE JUST MEMORIES NOW.

SOON THEY WILL BE GONE.
VANISHED INTO THE NIGHT, NO EARTHLY REMNANT OF THEIR PRESENCE REMAINING.
WITH A GREAT HEAVE, THE WHEELS TURN AND THE WAGONS HEAD OFF INTO THE NIGHT. AND THIS LOST ARMY OF THE TWILIGHT, THESE KINGS OF THE NIGHTTIME WORLD, MOVE ON.
ON TO THE NEXT TOWN.
THE SHOW MUST GO ON...

GRAYWALD, WEST VIRGINIA.
IN THE EARLY MORNING HALF LIGHT, AS THE WORLD HOVERS BETWEEN SLEEPING AND WAKING, THEY ARRIVE.
DESCENDING LIKE CROWS ON AN EMPTY FIELD, THEY QUICKLY GO TO WORK.
SOON, A WORLD OF SILK AND CANVAS SPROUTS UP, VIBRANT AND WILD AGAINST THE DIM GRAY OF THE TOWN.
A COLORFUL, UNEARTHLY GARDEN RIPE WITH IRRESISTIBLE SECRETS. FRAGRANT NIGHTS IN FOREIGN LANDS... ANCIENT MYSTERIES AND LURID DEEDS... MEMORIES OF WORLDS THAT NEVER WERE...
...THE FAINT SCENT OF COTTON CANDY AND COBWEBS... THE ROAR OF WILD BEASTS AND THE LILTING SIREN SONG OF THE CALLIOPE...
...ALL DRIFT INVITINGLY ON THE SOFT WIND OF A LATE SUMMER MORNING.
The CIRCUS is in TOWN!
Come One, Come All!
EXPERIENCE MYSTERIES AND Wonders BOTH UNIVERSAL AND PARTICULAR!
WITNESS ARCANE SECRETS AND BIZARRE CURIOSITIES FROM THE FAR CORNERS OF THE GLOBE!
Temptations SENSATIONS AND GRAND VEXATIONS ALL FOR YOUR Perusal & AMUSEMENT!
AND ALL FOR A MERE PITTANCE!
STEP RIGHT UP, THEN!
ALL ARE WELCOME
ALL ARE INVITED...
TICKETS
ENTRANCE


SO WHAD'YA THINK? CHECK THIS SUCKER OUT OR WHAT?
I SAY IT CAN'T BE WORSE THAN HANGING AROUND THIS DEAD-END TOWN. ADAM YOU IN?
TICKETS
ONE BY ONE, THE CROWD FILES IN, DISPERSING LIKE AUTUMN LEAVES AGAINST MOTLEY COLORED FIELDS. "IT'S LIKE STEPPING BACK IN TIME," SOMEONE SAYS.
2 TONS
SURE, YOU KNOW ME, I'M READY FOR ANYTHING.
"LIKE STEPPING INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S DREAM."
LOOK AT THIS JUNK. LOOKS LIKE IT'S A HUNDRED YEARS OLD.
WHA --? NOT EVEN. SHE'S NOT MY TYPE. I MEAN, LOOK AT HER FOLKS, THEY'RE ALL SO STRAIGHT. THEY'RE LIKE A TV FAMILY.
GAMES
HEY, CHECK IT OUT! THERE'S THAT CHICK ADAM'S SWEET ON. THAT AMANDA WHAT'S-HER-FACE.
I BET HER DAD DOESN'T EVEN DRINK.

YEAH? SO WHY DO YOU KEEP STARING AT HER LIKE HER BRA'S ON FIRE AND YOU'RE THE FIRE CAPTAIN?
WHAT? I'M NOT STARING...
EXCUSE ME, YOUNG SQUIRE. IF I MIGHT BE SO BOLD...
HUH?
THIS ADVICE I WILL GIVE TO YOU: FAINT HEART NEVER WON FAIR MAIDEN. THE HEART IS A MIGHTY ALLY, YOUNG SQUIRE, FOR THOSE WHO KNOW HOW TO LISTEN.
LOOK, NO OFFENSE OR NOTHIN'...
BUT I REALLY DON'T NEED ADVICE FROM... WELL, FROM A CLOWN.
DO NOT JUDGE BY APPEARANCE. MANY HAVE EYES WHO MAY AS WELL BE BLIND. I'LL TELL YOU A SECRET, YOUNG SQUIRE...
HEY, MOON-BOY! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'? COME ON, CHECK THIS OUT!
ROOWR
GET ME, I'M TARZAN! HERE, KITTY-KITTY-KITTY!
HUH-HUH.

GRRRR
GET AWAY FROM HERE...
NOW!
HERE KITTY-KITTY... UH-OH.
WHOA! RUN FOR IT!
DIDJA SEE THAT GUY?
JEEZ!
WHOA... UM, SORRY MISTER...
QUIT DAWDLING, BOY! THE SHOW'S ABOUT TO BEGIN!
The GRAND GUIGNOL ITSELF!
AND WE WOULDN'T DREAM OF STARTING WITHOUT YOU...

DON'T BE SHY, LADS. THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.
AT LEAST, NOTHING MUCH.
ABANDON ALL EXPECTATION AND SURRENDER YOURSELVES TO THE MOMENT.
YOU ARE ABOUT TO ENTER A MYSTERIOUS NEW WORLD!
Welcome Ladies & Gentlemen ★ONE AND ALL!★ TO THE GREATEST SHOW ON ANY EARTH!

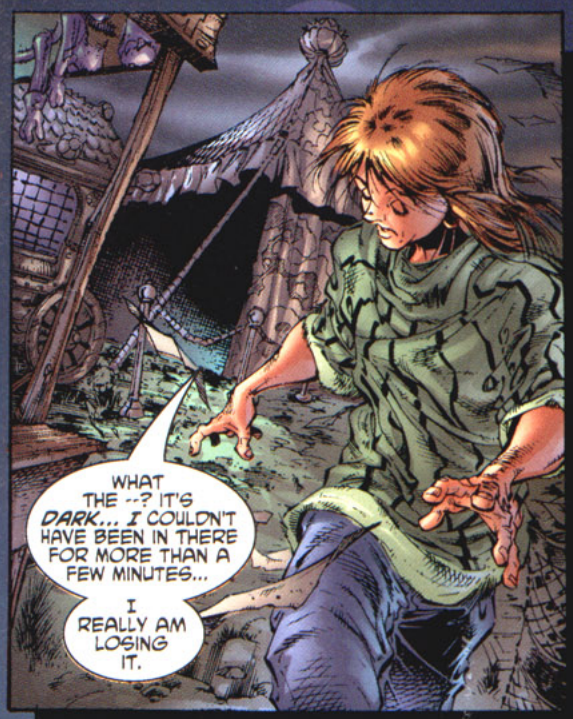
DID... DID YOU GUYS SEE THAT?
SEE WHAT? DUDE, YOU'RE TRIPPIN'.
TH-THOSE THINGS! YOU DIDN'T SEE THEM? LIKE MONSTERS OR DEMONS OR SOMETHING.
MY ASSOCIATES AND I ARE At Your Service...
I GOTTA GET SOME AIR.
DUDE, WHATEVER YOU'RE SMOKING, WHY DON'T YOU SHARE IT?
OOH, LITTLE ADAM'S SCARED.
WHAT'S GOING ON? I'M LOSING IT!
ALL DIZZY ALL OF A SUDDEN. THINK I'M GONNA RALF.
THIS PLACE IS TOO FREAKY FOR ME. GET A GRIP NOW. DEEP BREATH, TRY TO STOP SHAKING...
CIRCUS
WHAT?
CAW CAW
ADAM? ADAM MOON? WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU.
MADAM RAVEN
FORTUNES TOLD
SECRETS REVEELED

UM... HELLO?
THE ROOM SMELLS OF PARAFFIN AND INCENSE, OF RAW SILK AND WORMWOOD. THE FLOORBOARDS CREAK LIKE RUSTED OLD HINGES.
I HAVE BEEN EXPECTING YOU, ADAM MOON.
HUH? HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
"FORTUNES TOLD, SECRETS REVEALED." IT IS WHAT I DO. IT IS WHAT I AM HERE FOR. PLEASE SIT.
OKAY, THE GUYS PUT YOU UP TO THIS. REALLY FUNNY.
HEY, ARE YOU... BLIND?
NOT AS BLIND AS SOME. YOU HAVE COME TO US. OR CALLED US TO YOU, IF YOU PREFER. EVEN IF YOU DON'T REALIZE IT.
EACH OF US HAS MANY FACES, ADAM MOON. LIKE A *FRACTURED MIRROR* CASTING MANY REFLECTIONS, EACH A PIECE OF THE GREATER WHOLE. WHAT IS IT YOU SEEK, CHILD?

HER WORDS FLOAT IN THE AIR FOR A MOMENT, LIKE STORM CLOUDS ON THE VERGE OF THUNDERING.
LOOK INTO YOURSELF, ADAM MOON. TELL ME, WHAT DO YOU HUNGER FOR?
UH... A HOT CHICK AND A COOL BUZZ? A FAMILY LIFE THAT DOESN'T *COMPLETELY* SUCK. A NIRVANA REUNION? IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT TO HEAR?
YOU ARE MAKING THIS VERY DIFFICULT. VERY WELL.
LOOK HERE!
AND FOR ADAM MOON, THE WORLD DISSOLVES.

AND THE NIGHTMARES COME ALIVE.
SLIPPING INTO THE GAP BETWEEN DREAM AND MEMORY, ADAM MOON FACES HIS DEMONS.
ALL THE THINGS HE STRUGGLES SO HARD TO KEEP INSIDE, WELL UP AND THREATEN TO DROWN HIM.
BUT THERE'S NO HIDING NOW. ALL HIS DESPERATION, ALL HIS HOPELESSNESS FINDS HIM.
EACH LEADEN SLAP OF HIS FATHER'S HAND.
EACH CRUEL WORD AND EACH HUMILIATING ACT.
WHEN HIS SISTER DIED, IT JUST GOT WORSE. DAD HAD YET ANOTHER REASON TO DRINK. AND DRINKING MADE HIM MEAN.
LOST AND AIMLESS, STRUGGLING IN VAIN AGAINST THE COLD, SHAPELESS VOID... THIS IS ADAM'S LIFE.
A NIGHTMARE FROM WHICH HE STRUGGLES TO AWAKE.
OH MY GOD, WHAT DID YOU DO?

NOW... WHAT IS IT TO BE? POWER, PASSION, INSTINCT, VISION? WHICH DO YOU SEEK? REGARD THE TALISMANS LAID OUT BEFORE YOU? WHICH CALLS OUT TO YOU?
OKAY, LADY... IT'S BEEN REAL, BUT I THINK I'VE HAD ENOUGH WEIRDNESS FOR ONE DAY.
WE ARE NOT FINISHED. YOU HAVE NOT CHOSEN.
SORRY, I CHOOSE NOT TO PLAY.
EVERYONE CHOOSES...
...WHETHER THEY WANT TO OR NOT.
YOU ARE NOT GIVEN THAT OPTION.



ADAM MOON SLINKS AWAY IN THE COLD NIGHT AIR, BATHED IN THE SILVERY GHOST WINDS OF MOON-LIGHT, MOVING AS IF IN A DREAM.

HIS DEPARTURE DOES NOT GO UNNOTICED.

TIME STOPS FOR A MOMENT.

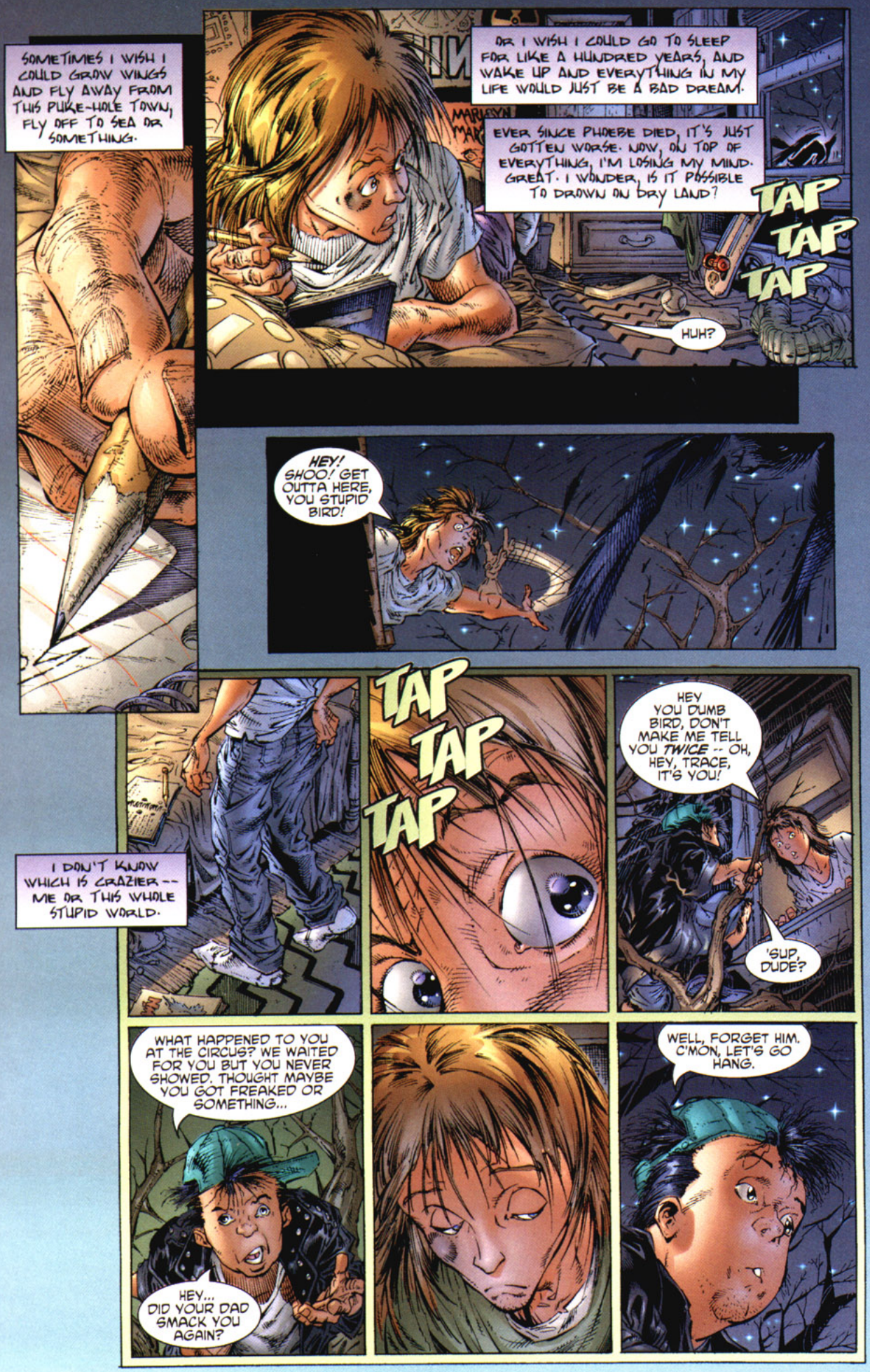
THEN THE NIGHT CALLS OUT, INSISTENT AND IRRESISTIBLE...

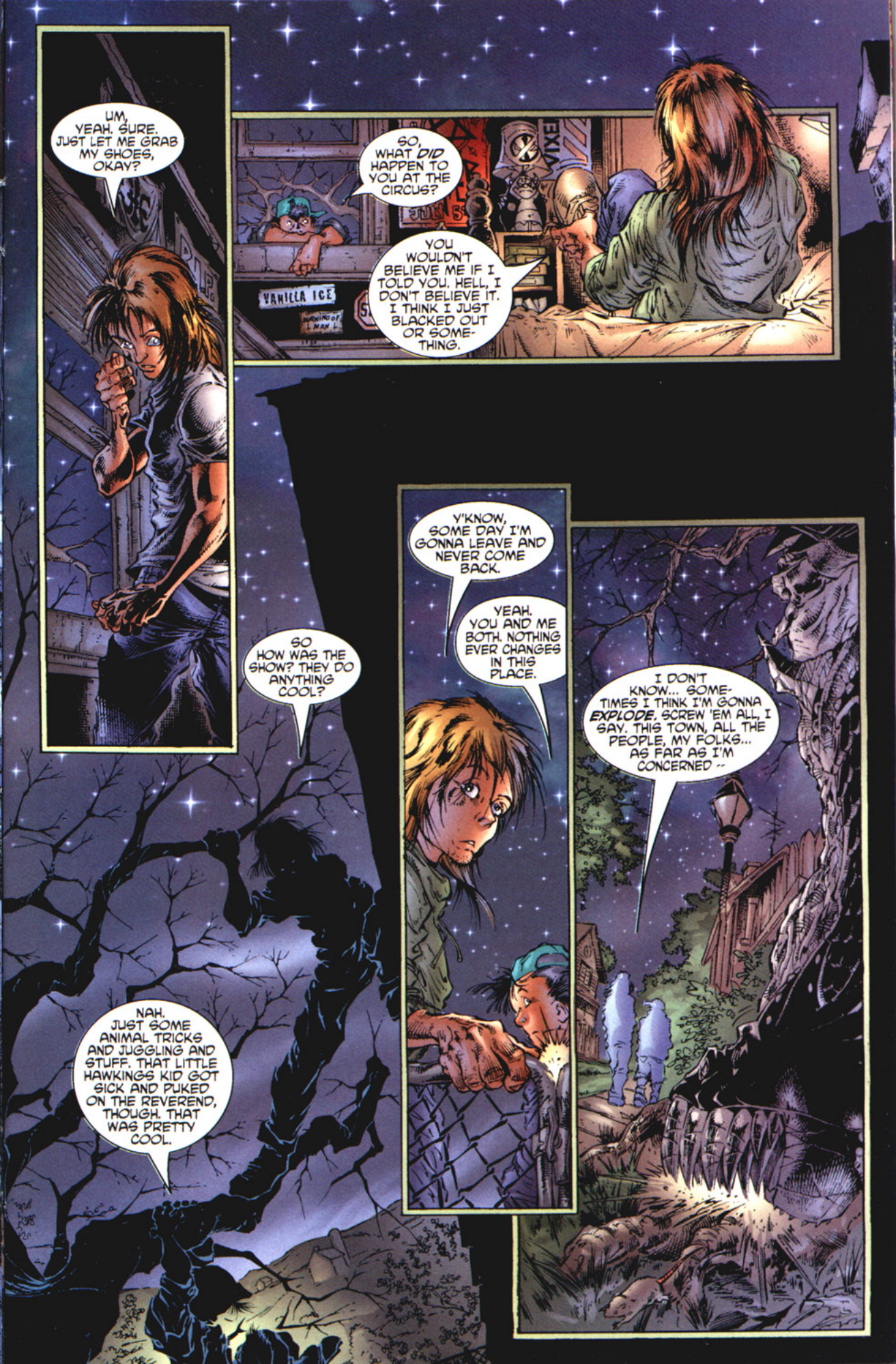
IT HAPPENS IN A SINGLE, PAINFUL MOMENT...
...BONE TWISTS AND CRACKS, SINEW SNAPS AND TEARS...
AN INFERNO OF FIRE AND BRIMSTONE ENGULFS THE RINGMASTER AND HE IS TRANSFORMED.
A SWIFT AND EXCRUCIATING REBIRTH INTO SOMETHING QUITE OTHER THAN HUMAN.

THE CREATURE ROARS INTO THE NIGHT AIR, IT'S BIRTH CRY RATTLING LIKE HELL-FORGED CHAINS.
ROOOWR
STRAIGHTENING ITSELF, THE CREATURE SNIFFS THE WIND AND BREATHES DEEP THE SCENT OF FEAR, THE FAINT, SALTY TANG OF BLOOD IN ITS MOUTH.

AND SO IT BEGINS...
OH, MAN, I'M REALLY IN FOR IT. PLEASE BE ASLEEP... PLEASE BE ASLEEP...
SO FAR, SO GOOD... MAYBE FOR ONCE IN MY PATHETIC LIFE I'LL CATCH A BREAK...
NOW IF I CAN JUST MAKE IT UPSTAIRS, I'M HOME FREE...

MEEOW
DAMN IT.
KLIK
WHAT THE HELL -- ADAM, IS THAT YOU?! DO YOU KNOW WHAT GODDAMN TIME IT IS?!
WAIT DAD...
SHUT UP, YOU WORTHLESS LITTLE MAGGOT. I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANOTHER WORD OUT OF YOU! YOU GOT SOME GODDAMNED NERVE SNEAKING AROUND LIKE --
NO, WAIT... IT'S NOT MY FAULT...
SMACK
DON'T MAKE ME TELL YOU TWICE, GOD DAMN IT, YOU LITTLE SNOT! THIS IS HOW WE RAISED YOU? STUPID LITTLE PIECE OF CRAP, THA'S WHAT YOU ARE! WHAT? YOU CRYIN' NOW?!
CHRIST! WHEN'RE YOU GONNA LEARN TO BE A MAN..?


SOMETIMES I WISH I COULD GROW WINGS AND FLY AWAY FROM THIS PUKE-HOLE TOWN, FLY OFF TO SEA OR SOMETHING.
OR I WISH I COULD GO TO SLEEP FOR LIKE A HUNDRED YEARS, AND WAKE UP AND EVERYTHING IN MY LIFE WOULD JUST BE A BAD DREAM.
EVER SINCE PHOEBE DIED, IT'S JUST GOTTEN WORSE. NOW, ON TOP OF EVERYTHING, I'M LOSING MY MIND. GREAT. I WONDER, IS IT POSSIBLE TO DROWN ON DRY LAND?
TAP TAP TAP
HUH?
HEY! SHOO! GET OUTTA HERE, YOU STUPID BIRD!
I DON'T KNOW WHICH IS CRAZIER -- ME OR THIS WHOLE STUPID WORLD.
TAP TAP TAP
HEY YOU DUMB BIRD, DON'T MAKE ME TELL YOU TWICE -- OH, HEY, TRACE, IT'S YOU!
'SUP, DUDE?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU AT THE CIRCUS? WE WAITED FOR YOU BUT YOU NEVER SHOWED. THOUGHT MAYBE YOU GOT FREAKED OR SOMETHING...
HEY... DID YOUR DAD SMACK YOU AGAIN?
WELL, FORGET HIM. C'MON, LET'S GO HANG.


UM, YEAH. SURE. JUST LET ME GRAB MY SHOES, OKAY?
SO, WHAT DID HAPPEN TO YOU AT THE CIRCUS?
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD YOU. HELL, I DON'T BELIEVE IT. I THINK I JUST BLACKED OUT OR SOMETHING.
VANILLA ICE
SO HOW WAS THE SHOW? THEY DO ANYTHING COOL?
NAH. JUST SOME ANIMAL TRICKS AND JUGGLING AND STUFF. THAT LITTLE HAWKINGS KID GOT SICK AND PUKED ON THE REVEREND, THOUGH. THAT WAS PRETTY COOL.
Y'KNOW, SOME DAY I'M GONNA LEAVE AND NEVER COME BACK.
YEAH. YOU AND ME BOTH. NOTHING EVER CHANGES IN THIS PLACE.
I DON'T KNOW... SOMETIMES I THINK I'M GONNA EXPLODE. SCREW 'EM ALL, I SAY. THIS TOWN, ALL THE PEOPLE, MY FOLKS... AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED --

"THEY CAN ALL GO STRAIGHT TO HELL!"
TO BE CONTINUED...